(c) to (e) There are about 2.63 lakh persons on the waiting list for LPG connection. At present, the bottling capacity in Greater Bombay is 212 TMTPA and about 560 employees are engaged in the bottling plants, whose capacity will be used for supply of LPG cylinders elsewhere in the country.

Decontrolling of Petroleum Sector

1481. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA :

SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to decontrol the Petroleum Sector;

(b) if so, what are the areas which are proposed to be decontrolled in the petroleum sector;

(c) whether any decision has been taken in this regard stating the considerations which weighed with Government to take the decision for decontrolling of the petroleum sector; and

(d) what is the likely overall impact on the Petroleum Sector and the consumer as a whole ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (d) In order to intensify exploration and production of oil and gas as well as to increase refining capacity, liberalised policies have been introduced in the petroleum sector. This is expected to increase the availability of essential petroleum products in the Country.

Setting up of Private Refineries

1482. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have received a number of applications to set up private refineries in the country;

(b) if so, the names of the companies who have applied for setting up of private refineries in the country; and

(c) the number of Letters of Intent issued to set up private refineries ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following applied for setting up oil refineries/lube refineries in the private sector :—

(i) M/s Reliance Industries.

(ii) M/s. International Petroleum S.A. (BVI), Switzerland.

(iii) M/s Ashok Leyland-Gulf Oil Trading Company of U.S.A.

(iv) M/s Essar.

(v) M/s Hyderabad Industries Ltd.

(vi) M/s Harrison Malayalam Ltd.

(vii) M/s Reliance Industries Ltd. (for Lube).

(c) Four Letters of Intent have been issued to applicants at Nos. (i), (ii), (iii) and (vii) above.

तेल वाहक समुद्री जहाज में हुई दुर्घटना की जांच

1483. **श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय :** क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) एस्सार शिपिंग कम्पनी के तेल वाहक समुद्री जहाज में 1992 में हुई दुर्घटना के संबंध में की गई जांच अथवा प्रारंभिक जांच का ब्यौरा क्या है, और

(ख) उक्त दुर्घटना का ब्यौरा क्या है ?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री (श्री बी० शंकरानन्द) : (क) संभवतः उस दुर्घटना का उल्लेख किया गया है जो 2-7-92 को एस्सार शिपिंग कम्पनी के तेल ले जा रहे जहाज में हुई थी। इस दुर्घटना की मर्केन्टाइल मैरीन विभाग,